# General Assembly

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**Fifty-eighth session**
Agenda item 73

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

*[on the report of the First Committee (A/58/462)]*

### 58/55. Promotion at the regional level in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe of the United Nations programme of action on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolutions 50/70 B of 12 December 1995, 52/38 J of 9 December 1997, 53/77 T of 4 December 1998, 54/54 R of 1 December 1999, 54/54 V of 15 December 1999 and 55/33 Q of 20 November 2000,

*Also recalling* the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects adopted on 20 July 2001,[1] which encourages in particular regional organizations to take initiatives to promote its implementation,

*Welcoming* the results of the First Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York from 7 to 11 July 2003,[2]

*Convinced* of the importance of national, regional and international measures to combat trafficking and illicit trade in small arms, including those measures that could be adapted to regional approaches,

*Acknowledging* the capacity of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, to provide a substantial contribution at the regional level to the process in the United Nations on combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, taking into account regional particularities,

*Taking note* of the adoption on 24 November 2000 of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe document on small arms and light weapons,[3]

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[1] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, New York, 9–20 July 2001* (A/CONF.192/15), chap. IV, para. 24.

[2] See A/CONF.192/BMS/2003/1.

[3] A/CONF.192/PC/20, appendix.

*Also taking note* of the work done so far within the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to develop best practice guides related to the control of small arms and light weapons, and acknowledging that a handbook compiling these best practice guides could also be useful to other Member States in their efforts to implement the United Nations programme of action with a view to combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of measures to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, including ongoing efforts at the regional and subregional levels;

2. *Commends* the progress that has already been made in this regard by organizations in various regions and subregions and, in this context, the progress made so far in drawing up best practice guides to prevent, combat and eliminate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons among Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe participating States, and the hope expressed in it to see this process rapidly come to a positive conclusion;

3. *Invites* all Member States that have not yet done so to examine the possibility of developing and adopting regional and subregional measures, as appropriate, to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and contributing to international peace and security.

*71st plenary meeting*
*8 December 2003*